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Country School Legacy: Humanities on the Frontier

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# COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY:

## Humanities on the Frontier

Project Director—Andrew Gulliford

Media Director—Randall Teeuwen

Exhibits Director—Berkeley Lobanov

### HISTORIC SITE FORM

State Nebraska County Madison

Location (in miles & direction from nearest town) 1 mile East of Norfolk

Is this the original location? No, school originally held in house

Name of building & origin of name \_\_\_\_\_

Name & number of the district #87

Date built ? Years in use \_\_\_\_\_

Who built it? A contractor or the community? Built by W.P.A.

Does it look like it came from a plan book or was it designed by the community? Plan book

Names of former teachers:

Wanda Wheeling

Helen Wiedman

Lillian Roach

Julia Young-Peterson

(see attachment)

Names of former students (family names only):

Name & address of person in charge of building:

Marianne Wright (teacher)  
1510 Glenmore Rd.  
Norfolk

Who is the owner? District



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COUNTRY SCHOOL LEGACY HISTORIC SITE FORM

Architectural Features:

Size of building 60 X 100

Number of Windows (four pane, six pane, etc.) 24 - various designs

Number of doors (entrances) 3

Number of classrooms 5

Bell tower or cupola —

Materials used (wood, brick, stone, etc.) brick & wood (for additions)

Type of roof asphalt shingles

Outhouses —

Playground Equipment swings, teeter-totters, slide

Color of building & trim brick & white

Coal shed or stable —

Teacherage —

Flagpole Yes

Other architectural features:

Basement used as classroom

Anything left inside?

Classroom furnishings

Narrative Information: Did any special events happen at the school? What stories do people remember?

See attachment

Current condition & use:

Good. Classroom use.

District records available: yes ☒ no ☐ where stored Madison County Courthouse

Black & white photo taken: yes ☒ no ☐ Old photo, before additions

Old photos available: yes ☒ no ☐

Does the building have any state or national historic designation?

Name & address of surveyor James L. Vertigan date 11/80



## History of District 87

On March 9, 1938 the first meeting to organize the district was held at the home of John Weiler. The first board members were: Julius Wichert, Gladys Weiler, and Otto Moss.

A petition was drawn to branch from District 2. The original boundary for District 87 was all of sections twenty-four, twenty-five, and thirty-six and parts of sections twenty-three, twenty-six, and thirty-five lying east and south of a line starting at the Northwest corner of the Northeast Quarter of section 23, township 24, North range 1, West of the 6th PM. in Madison County extending south to the city limits of Norfolk at the center of Nebraska Avenue, thence East along the east city limits at the east line of Chestnut Street, thence south along the east corporate limite of the south line of Park Avenue, thence west along the south line of Park Avenue to the east line of S. A. Seale's addition to Norfolk, thence south to the southeast corner of said Seale's addition, thence west to the east line of Block one, Pasewalk's 6th addition to Norfolk, thence south to the north line of Pasewalk Avenue, thence east to the west line of the southwest quarter of the Northwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 26, township 24, North range 1, west of the 6th PM., thence south to the north line of Nenow's Addition, thence east to the post line of said Nenow's Addition, thence south to the south line of Nenow's Addition, thence west to the west line of Nenow's Addition, thence south along the corporate line to a point two-hundred feet south of the southeast corner of the northwest quarter, of the northwest quarter of section 35, township 24, north range 1, west of the 6th PM., thence west to the centerline of First Street and thence south along the center line of First Street to the south line of said section 35, all in Madison County Nebraska. This original consisted of eight sections.



This was approved by the County Superintendent, Gladys Homan-Briedert. During this time, Julius Wichert passed away, Leo Wichert, son of Julius, was appointed to fill the vacancy. Later, before the school was completed, the boundary was extended north to Benjamin Avenue.

The first term of school was opened on August 28, 1938 in a three room house on East Monroe Avenue, rented from John Weiler for \$30.00 per month. The house now in owned by Lyle Dotson. Miss Wanda Wheeling, now Mrs. Pederson, was the teacher and 26 pupils were enrolled. The salary was \$65.00 per month.

The land of a little less then two acres, to be located 6 rods and 13 feet north of Omaha Avenue, was purchased from E. F. Eberley for \$300.00. There wasn't any road leading to this location, the district purchased a roadway, to be used for school purposes only. It later became a county road.

School was held for two terms in the three-room house until the building was erected by W. P. A. labor. This was a one room building with a full basement.

The enrollment increased until there was an enrollment in 1951 of 42 students. Mrs. Helen Wiedman was the teacher. She taught in this school for seven terms.

In the summer of 1958, the basement was converted into a classroom and two teachers were hired. Mrs. Lillian Roach was the upper grade instructor and Mrs. Julia Young-Peterson was in the lower grades.

In 1966, District 21 in Stanton County decided to dissolve, and some of this district became a part of District 87. This was approved by the County Superintendents of the two counties involved. This increased the size of the school district to almost twelve sections. With the addition of these students, it was necessary to add an addition to the present



building. Two rooms were added to the south in the fall of 1966. A third teacher was hired in January of 1967. The teachers employed were Mrs. Dawn Dederman, grades K,1,2, Mrs. Jeanne Nelson, grades 3,4,5, and Mr. H. W. Rickenberg, grades 6,7,8.

With the enlarging of the school house, more land was needed for the playground. Six-tenths of an acre was purchased from Volkman for \$665. Volkman is the owner of the former Eberley property. In the fall of 1967, 67 students were enrolled under the leadership of four teachers. Mrs. Sharon Christiansen, Kindergarten; Mrs. Dawn Dederman grades 1-2; Mrs. Jeanne Nelson grades 3-4-5; and Mr. H. W. Rickenberg grades 6-7-8.

Some of the teachers are:

Wanda Wheeling-Pedersen	Phyllis Wagner
Lennie Horn	Elnora Hansen
Norma Anderson	Lillian Roach
Betty Knight	Doris Carey
Eva Horsham	Clarabelle Wulf
Helen Wiedman	Zora Blank
Minnie Wade	Jeanne Nelsen
Frances Schaffer	Dawn Dederman
Julie Young-Petersen	H. W. Rickenberg
Doris Wagner	Sharon Christiansen

The present members on the board are:

Dean Dressler President

Mel Eberling Treas.

Eldon Mundorf Secy.



